

**ABSTRACT**

An electronic radio frequency (RF) identification system 10 is disclosed and claimed. The system includes an interrogator 11 and a plurality of RF transponders 12.1 to 12.n. In use, each transponder is operative in response to an interrogation signal 14 to respond with a forward error correctable data message 16.1 including base data encoded as symbol characters in accordance with a forward error correcting code, such as a Reed Solomon Code, and check characters on the base data as defined in the forward error correcting code. The interrogator 11 utilizes data relating to the forward error correcting code, the symbol characters and check characters in the received forward error correctable data message, to reconstruct the base data in the event of corruption of the forward error correctable data message during transmission.